

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims

1-27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) An intravascular device, comprising:

an elongate tubular member having a proximal end, a distal end, and a balloon attached at the distal end, the elongate tubular member further having a first lumen extending from the proximal end and communicating with the balloon, and a second lumen communicating with the balloon and ~~extending~~ wherein the second lumen extends to an exhaust port at the distal end of the elongate tubular member; and

a valve located in the distal end of the elongate tubular member and operative to control the passage of flowable substances through the second lumen and the exhaust port.

29. (Previously Presented) The intravascular device of claim 28, wherein the valve is positioned across the second lumen and capable of allowing the expulsion of gas from the interior of the balloon through the exhaust port, and wherein the valve is capable of preventing the expulsion of liquid from the interior of the balloon through the exhaust port.

30. (Previously Presented) The intravascular device of claim 28, wherein the valve is non-mechanically actuated.

31. (Previously Presented) The intravascular device of claim 28, wherein the valve comprises slitted rubber.

32. (Previously Presented) The intravascular device of claim 28, wherein the valve comprises a self-sealing elastomer.

33. (Withdrawn) The intravascular device of claim 28, wherein the valve comprises a plug.

34. (Withdrawn) The intravascular device of claim 33, wherein the plug comprises sintered polyethylene.

35. (Withdrawn) The intravascular device of claim 28, wherein the valve comprises a membrane.

36. (Withdrawn) The intravascular device of claim 35, wherein the membrane comprises Gortex®.

37. (Withdrawn) The intravascular device of claim 35, wherein the membrane comprises nylon mesh.

38. (Withdrawn) The intravascular device of claim 28, wherein the valve is mechanically actuated.

39. (Withdrawn) The intravascular device of claim 28, wherein the valve comprises a one-way check valve.

40. (Withdrawn) The intravascular device of claim 28, wherein the valve comprises a hydrophobic filter.

41. (Withdrawn) The intravascular device of claim 40, wherein the filter comprises a gas permeable membrane.

42. (Previously Presented) The intravascular device of claim 28, wherein the valve operates by simultaneously allowing the expulsion of gas from the interior of the balloon through the exhaust port while preventing the expulsion of liquid from the interior of the balloon through the exhaust port.

43. (Currently Amended) A method for degassing an intravascular device, comprising the steps of:

providing an elongate tubular member having a proximal end, a distal end, and a balloon attached at the distal end, the elongate tubular member further having a first lumen extending from the proximal end and communicating with the balloon, and a second lumen communicating with the balloon and ~~extending~~ wherein the second lumen extends to an exhaust port at the distal end of the elongate tubular member, the elongate tubular member further having a valve located in the distal end of the elongate tubular member and operative to control the passage of flowable substances through the second lumen and the exhaust port;

opening the valve; and

injecting liquid through the first lumen into the balloon, wherein gas is purged from the balloon through the second lumen, through the valve, and through the exhaust port.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the valve is placed in an open position by inserting a needle or hollow tube into the valve.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the valve is a non-mechanical valve.

46. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 43, wherein the valve is a mechanical valve.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the valve is selected from the group consisting of slitted rubber, self sealing elastomer, a plug, a membrane, and a hydrophobic filter.